

18-20 December 2023

Tokyo, Japan

#ESDfor2030

Background

'For our very own survival, we must learn to live together sustainably on this planet. We must change the way we think and act as individuals and societies. So, in turn, education must change to create a peaceful and sustainable world for the survival and prosperity of current and future generations.'

Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO, ESD Roadmap for Sustainable Development, 2020.

Over the last few decades, the concept of sustainable development has grown out of the interconnected environmental, ecological, social and economic challenges facing the planet, and has increasingly coalesced into a driving paradigm in policy, governance and education. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) calls for an education that is transformative, which empowers lifelong learners with the knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, to not only make informed decisions but also to bring about the individual and collective change required to positively impact our societies, particularly in face of the climate crisis.

ESD is explicitly stated in Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education, in target 4.7: *'By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.'*

ESD is seen as a key enabler for all 17 SDGs, through its emphasis on interdisciplinarity, highlighting linkages between society, economy, and the environment, and the need to

address societal challenges within the context of a finite planet. It provides learners with cross-cutting competencies in cognitive, socio-emotional and behavioural dimensions of learning, such as system thinking, collaboration and problem solving. It is the holistic approach to changing mindsets and worldviews towards more sustainable ways of thinking and acting.

In 2020, UNESCO launched the [ESD for 2030 roadmap](#), which sets out the urgent challenges facing the planet and underlines the implementation of the new *Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030) framework*. The ESD for 2030 roadmap outlines actions in five priority action areas on policy, learning environments, building capacities of educators, youth and local level action. It also underlines six key areas of implementation: country initiatives on ESD for 2030, ESD for 2030 Network, communication and advocacy, tracking issues and trends, mobilizing resources, and monitoring the progress.

Further, at the 2021 World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Berlin, Germany, Member States and education stakeholders committed to taking concrete steps to transform learning for the survival of our planet through the ‘Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development’. The integration of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into all levels of education and training from early childhood to tertiary and adult education was acknowledged as the solution to address the dramatic interrelated challenges of the world.

ESD for 2030 country initiatives

To create momentum to implement the ESD for 2030 framework around its five Priority Action Areas, Member States are encouraged to develop and implement a ‘country initiative’ to mainstream ESD in the country’s efforts made for pursuing sustainable development and quality education. Building on existing activities related to ESD, the initiative aims at scaling them up, or creating new ones. Some Member States have integrated ESD in their efforts in transforming education policy and practice through curriculum review, teacher development, and youth engagement. The country initiative should be considered as an umbrella initiative mobilizing diverse stakeholders in education and sustainable development, in order to foster synergies. Currently, 86 countries have expressed interest to develop their ESD for 2030 country initiative with many of them have progressed in designing and implementing their respective initiatives.

ESD-NET 2030

To support both Member States and stakeholders with the implementation of ESD for 2030, UNESCO has launched a new global network – ESD-Net 2030. The network serves as a broad community of practice in ESD and provides opportunities for engagement according to four main objectives: 1) knowledge sharing & mutual learning, 2) advocacy, 3) collaboration and 4) monitoring and evaluation.

To date, the network has engaged more than 80 UNESCO Member States, 50 international partners as part of the network’s core groups, in addition to reaching more than 4000 individual stakeholders globally through its communication channels. Since its launch in October 2022, the network has carried out regional meetings and webinars to support the implementation of ESD for 2030 country initiatives, as well as the ESD-Net 2030 Learning

Webinar Series - an interactive learning environment – to showcase good practices and innovative approaches to ESD.

Objectives

The ESD-NET Global Meeting will focus on sharing the implementation and progress of the ESD for 2030 country initiatives, trends and innovation in the context of Agenda 2030 and the follow-up to the Transforming Education Summit and discuss action points in 2024-2025.

Some key objectives include:

- Discussing how ESD for 2030 strengthens the quality and relevance of education in the context of transforming education,
- Developing systemic education responses (national and regional) to current sustainable development challenges, and
- Strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement within the implementation of ESD for 2030.

Expected outcomes

In addition to the strengthening of ESD-NET's community of practice, key outcomes will include:

- Taking stock and strengthen the implementation of the ESD for 2030 Roadmap and country initiatives,
- Sharing and dissemination of initiatives, resources and latest research findings on ESD, and
- What's next for ESD-NET2030? – a draft action plan for regional and global activities over next 2 years.

Format

The meeting will be technical in nature, aimed at sharing practical information on the development and implementation of key ESD programmes and projects at national and international levels. The meeting will consist of:

- interactive plenaries for debate and dialogue,
- concurrent thematic sessions,
- workshops for facilitating networking,

- site visits to explore local schools and learning centres that integrate ESD in their activities, and
- an exhibition space to showcase good practices by countries and partners.

Only the first day of the meeting, December 18, from 9:30 am to 1:00pm, will be webcast via Zoom. **Please register here to follow the discussions:** [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

The recording of the webcast will be available afterwards on our website: [ESD-NET Global Meeting](#)

Working languages

The official working languages of the Global Meeting will be English, French, Spanish and Japanese. Simultaneous interpretation will be available for most of the sessions.

Participants

In-person participation at the meeting will be by invitation only. 250 participants will attend the meeting from the following categories:

- Representatives from Member States who have expressed interest in in the ESD for 2030 Country Initiative, with priority to those Member States who have advanced in the development or who are already implementing (e.g., having shared a draft initiative with UNESCO).
- Other key regional, national partners, stakeholders and members of ESD-Net 2030 (e.g., youth organizations, UN and multilateral agencies, NGOs, higher education institutions and UNESCO Chairs, etc.).

Organizers

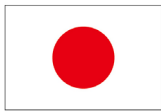
The first ESD-NET 2030 Global Meeting is co-organized by UNESCO and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan and co-hosted by the United Nations University (UNU).

Venue

United Nations University (UNU)
53-70, Jingumae 5-chome,
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**From
the People of Japan**

